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Home Healthcare Nurses Assn.  
228 Seventh Street, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003  
ATTN: New Referral

Dear HHNA,

I am looking for a home health nurse to attend to some of my healthcare needs. I am hoping you might have some suggestions for me. I currently live in Ohio, but I am planning to move to the Washington D.C. area just as soon as I can find someone to buy my house. Do you know of anyone in northern Ohio looking to buy a small fixer-upper? I am willing to sell below market value just to get the deal done quickly.

I am moving because I am getting up in age and I want to move closer to my family. My brother married into a family that set down roots in Washington D.C. over 150 years ago. He is the only family I have left after Aunt Edna died last year. So I decided that it's about time to find a place to live near my brother and his family.

Since I am not familiar with the nurses in that area, and my brother is not much of an expert on medical care, I thought that perhaps you could point me in the right direction. Can you give me the name of someone I might contact? Do you do any direct referrals?

I imagine I should tell you a little bit about myself and my needs. I am a big man. I am 6'3" tall and I weigh 785 pounds. I used to be a semi-professional football player -- an offensive lineman. My playing weight was usually around 350, but after a knee injury ended my semi-career, I've been less mobile and the weight just started piling on. Because of my size, I require assistance bathing myself. I also need special treatment for a nasty infection/reaction. I am kind of embarrassed to talk about it, but since I am writing a letter, that makes it a little bit easier.

Like I said, I am fairly large and I have a voracious appetite. I saw advertisements for that TV reality show *The Biggest Loser* a while ago. You know the one? It's where a group of people each compete to lose the most weight over a set period of time. I contacted the producers of that show to see if I could get onto a future series, but they told me that they could not accept me as a candidate because I am over 55 years old. I guess there are liability issues due to the physical activity the participants undergo. It's just as well anyway. I probably couldn't hack it on account of my bum knee.

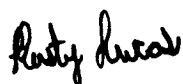
Then one day I was watching a show on one of those educational channels. They did a feature about some medical procedure where the doctor staples your stomach to block off a large amount of food from getting in. I looked pretty deep into that, but my insurance said they would not cover it. They say it is an elective surgical procedure. It seemed like the perfect answer to my problem and I was so angry that the insurance would not cover the procedure. I've been told by my previous doctor that I am eating myself to death. I fired him after he told me that, but now I am beginning to think that he may have been right. If so, then this operation could save my life. Doesn't that sound like a necessary procedure to you? Try explaining that to an insurance company!

So then I did something that, in hindsight, I probably should not have done. I bought an industrial strength stapler from an office supply catalog and just started stapling up my belly. I hired a guy off the street to shave my belly hair and to do the lower belly stapling that I could not reach. I was going to ask my health care nurse to shave it for me, but I didn't want her to ask questions about why I wanted my belly shaved. I knew that she would try to prevent me from using the stapler, so I just sent her away after she finished bathing me and brought the other guy in to do the shaving and stapling.

Well, he wasn't in the most sober shape and he got a little out of control with the stapler. I apparently passed out, and later woke up with the paramedics all around me. I nearly died from the incident, but they managed to get me back on my feet. But as a result, I have an ongoing condition/reaction to the stapling that needs careful monitoring. I don't know the medical term for it, but you guys probably know what I am talking about.

Please provide me with a reliable home nurse or a home health service in Washington D.C. that will meet my needs. I can be available for an interview if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rusty Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rusty Lucas

p.s. Please send me a free HHNA baseball cap. I wear an extra large. I will wear it when I get to Washington D.C. so that you will recognize me when I come in for my interview. I have never been to Washington D.C. before, but my brother tells me that the city is full of fat cats -- each one fatter than the last. If that is true, then I expect I might blend right in and get lost in the crowd.